

Kristine Yoo Nakamatsu, Board Member / Secretary for Surfrider Spirit Sessions
Phone: 808-782-1970
Email kristine.yoo@gmail.com

Re: Support to the Amendment to the Grants In Aid Bill 13 page 29 of 35 to provide Grant in Aid funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to support the Amendment to the Grants In Aid Bill 13 page 29 of 35 to provide Grant in Aid funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions.

I was initially a volunteer mentor for Surfrider Spirit Sessions and have had the first hand experience working with at-risk youths who participate in this program. I have personally seen the value of the one-on-one mentorship as I worked with the at-risk youths as a mentor. We teach surfing as a metaphor for life's lessons – for example, that even if you fall off your board, you should get back on the board and catch the next wave. But this program isn't about just about the life's lessons. It's about giving these kids an opportunity to accomplish something on their own – the excitement that can be seen in their faces as they catch their first wave is indescribable!

I sincerely urge the Members of the City Council to support the amendment to provide GIA funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions. We fill the gap that other programs and services in Hawaii cannot provide. Furthermore, as a small grassroots organization, our organization will greatly benefit from the GIA funding – which in turn will benefit the at-risk youths that participate in the program.

Thank-you for your consideration and thank-you in advance for your support of Surfrider Spirit Sessions.

Kristine Yoo Nakamatsu

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2015 APR 21 PM 3:59